

RAB Minutes

NAS North Island

Restoration Advisory Board

Introduction

The forty-third Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island was held on Thursday, February 19, 1998, at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Dorothy Marron, Community Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed RAB and community members.

RAB Attendance: Arno Bernardo, Laura Hunter, Sandor Kaupp, Richard Mach, Dottie Marron, Marsha Mingay, Art Van Rooy

Public/Navy Attendance: Matt Anderson, Jerry Bailey, Homer Bludau, Mark Bonsavage, Earl Callahan, Neal Clements, Bill Collins, David Demars, Stephanie Kaupp, Mike Magee, Vivian Mayer, Ray Mello, Tracy Mogg, Frederick Newton, Alex Parsons, Michael Pound, Brian Sanders, Betty Schmucker

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 15, 1998, MEETING:

Ms. Mingay said that she mentioned groups other than business people, and suggested the minutes say, "Ms Mingay mentioned the importance of having the RAB composition match the larger community" on the bottom of Page 1. Mr. Mach moved, and Mr. Kaupp seconded, accepting the minutes as amended. The motion passed.

Mr. Kaupp announced that Howard Bacon has resigned. He has moved to Ojai. Ms Marron said he will be missed, and Ms. Hunter suggested writing a letter of appreciation to Mr. Bacon. Ms. Marron informed the RAB that Lois Ewen had to resign for health reasons.

RAB OUTREACH - Mike Magee

Rey Ringor has drafted a press release. A copy will be provided to Ms. Mingay, Ms. Marron and Mr. Dittbenner for their review. In addition, an updated fact sheet is being prepared which will include information on the Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Coronado Installation Restoration (IR) sites. Mr. Collins said that it would take a month or so to complete the fact sheet. Mr. Magee explained that the target

date for the start of the Outreach Program is mid-March. Ms. Hunter suggested looking at areas other than Coronado which are affected by base operations, and Mr. Mach added that the Community Relations Plan in the charter mentioned Coronado and the immediate San Diego area. Since an e-mail to those working on NAS North Island is planned, it could be forwarded to Ms. Hunter for further distribution. Ms. Kaupp suggested putting it on the web sites for the cities of Imperial Beach and Coronado. Mr. Magee said that those entities could be provided with an HTML file. Ms. Kaupp suggested getting a free slot on a local cable channel for a public service announcement. Mr. Magee thanked the RAB for the good ideas and said that there is now even greater impetus with two key community RAB members having resigned. Mr. Kaupp mentioned he would like to write an editorial letter to the local newspaper. There was no objection from the RAB. Mr. Collins informed the RAB that the Navy is revising the Community Relations Work Plan, since the prior one was done 2 years ago based on 3-year old interviews.

SITES 9 AND 11 HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT RECOMENDATIONS - Laura Hunter

Ms. Hunter passed out a draft letter from the RAB Technical Assistance Contract (RABTAC) to the RAB reflecting the lessons learned after the RAB met with the first technical consultant. Recommendations are made to the Navy based on the consultant's report. Ms. Hunter felt there were two things from the first experience that were really unfortunate – first, that the Navy personnel told the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) that there was no need for them to attend the RAB meeting; and second, that a Health Risk Assessment that had been performed by the APCD on Sites 9 and 11 was not provided to the consultant. She would hope that the next meeting, when the Bioassay and Environmental Sampling and Analysis Plan (BESAP) is covered, would include the Water Board and the Navy Research and Development (NRaD), the original consultants.

The two phone calls in advance of the RAB presentation were helpful. Mr. Collins concurred. Informing the consultant of the RAB's concerns, in advance, is good since there are so many documents and many directions the consultant could go. The first consultant understood that he was working for the RAB, and didn't feel he should have to respond to a long list of questions from the Navy's consultant. That has been resolved. In the future, Richard Mach or Arno Bernardo will pose all such questions as RAB members.

Ms. Hunter wanted to commend the Navy personnel for allowing the RABTAC to "call the shots" in terms of which consultant to hire and specifying the scope of work. This may not work as smoothly with other RABs, where the Department of Defense (DoD) side is not as helpful as they are here at NAS North Island. Mr. Kaupp concurred in commending the Navy and Navy RABTAC members, saying that he is appreciative that they accepted the criticism very well and seem to have found it useful. Ms. Hunter added that she is aware that the Navy personnel are

expending a lot of time and energy on this and wanted to acknowledge that. Mr. Bernardo recommended that all the RAB members read the letter and present input at the next meeting. The draft letter will be mailed out with the agenda and minutes, which should give everyone a chance to review it and make recommendations.

Ms. Kaupp asked why the Navy did not feel it was important to have the APCD staff at the RAB meeting. Mr. Magee said that it was his decision. Southwest Division (SWDIV) had initially invited the APCD. Since there was some confusion over which report to review, and the consultant had not been given the APCD's risk assessment; it would be unfair to bring them here without all the information. As a result of this experience, the Navy agreed to put together a binder with all the risk assessments that were done for Sites 9 and 11. It will be placed in the repository. Mr. Mach requested that the RABTAC inform SWDIV who they would like to attend the remaining consultant presentations. Ms. Hunter said that it would be good to invite Charles Cheng from the Water Board, and perhaps even his boss, John Anderson, for Site 9. Mr. Mach said that while Mr. Cheng doesn't have the hours to attend all the RAB meetings, he is able to come to those that are particularly geared to groundwater. Ms. Hunter thought it would also be helpful to have someone who oversees sediment cleanup.

SITE 10 - Mark Bonsavage

Mary Wilson-Nichols was unable to attend.

Background: This was an aircraft dis-assembly site. A remediation was performed in 1996. There had been a smelter in the area, and slag had been dumped along the shoreline. In the spring of 1997, a reconnaissance survey was performed. Several small pieces of slag still remained on the shoreline. A radiological survey was also performed inland, and there were hits of some metals and radiation

The approach now is to take some samples in the bay. The Navy will take sediment, groundwater and soil samples. Mr. Bonsavage pointed out the sampling locations. Then, a health risk assessment (HRA) will be performed. Ms. Hunter asked whether all the slag would be removed. Mr. Bonsavage said that anything that's giving off a signal would be removed from the shoreline. The HRA will be done on the metals and radiation. The goal is that there be no threat at the site. The residential standard, which the State suggested be utilized, is 5 picocuries per gram. Ms. Hunter requested that should a standard other than residential be used, it be brought back to the RAB. Mr. Magee mentioned that the report has a flow chart, similar to a decision tree. He recommended reviewing that report. Ms. Hunter reminded the RAB that there is a RABTAC consultant for this site. Ms. Mingay asked when identifying the lateral and horizontal boundaries would occur, and was told that it would begin in March. Mr. Mach added that when/if contamination is

left at a site, there is a requirement to perform a 5-year review of the site. There was some discussion about the cost of removal vs. the benefits. Mr. Magee added that there are site controls in that area and that they will remain in place through the investigation.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (TAPP) [Mike Magee]

Mr. Magee said that Mr. Bernardo had made a presentation on this subject last year, but now that the final rule has been issued by the DoD, he is updating the RAB. This is a prepackaged briefing and is fairly lengthy. Bill Collins, Rick Phillips and Mike Magee attended a few TAPP training sessions given by the DoD, which recommended they give a full briefing to the RAB. Although the RAB members are somewhat familiar with the process, RABs are now required to adhere to the details of the rule. There is a two-page form, the TAPP application, which has been developed by the DoD.

The TAPP is a program to provide independent assistance with interpretation of engineering and scientific issues associated with the clean-up program. The main goal is to enhance the public's ability to participate in the decision-making process by improving understanding of the clean-up process. TAPP is being offered to involve the public, demonstrate the military's commitment to community relations, enable participation in the more technical aspects, and restore trust in those RABs where trust is lacking. It is designed for the community members of the RAB. A lesson learned from our own RABTAC presentation in January was that the results received from TAPP are for the RAB and the community.

TAPP began as an idea resulting from work done by the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee, comprised of regulator agencies, community members, those interested in cleanup and the DoD. The final report was issued in April 1996. One aspect was developing this TAPP-type program, similar to, yet different from, the EPA Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program. The proposed rule came out in late 1996, and the final rule was issued in early February 1998.

The assistance is provided using cleanup funding. There are funds specifically earmarked for restoration, called "Environmental Restoration Navy", and those are the funds to be used. RAB community members will be again used in the selection process. The RAB can suggest a project, then the Installation Commander would have to review and approve it, at which point it goes to the contract office. A closeout report gets sent back to the DoD, and ultimately to the Undersecretary of Defense, where it is used in their report to Congress. Although this process is similar to what this RAB did before, now the TAPP application will have to be formalized in writing. Eligible projects include interpretation of documents, review of proposed restoration technologies, participation in relative risk site evaluations,

understanding health and environmental implications of sites and cleanup strategies, and training. Ineligible projects include political activity, lobbying, litigation or legal actions, generation of new primary data (such as well-drilling and testing), reopening final DoD decisions or conducting disputes on final decisions, epidemiological or health studies, and community outreach. Mr. Magee said that the TAPP assistance this RAB requests would probably fall into the category of: "The technical assistance is likely to contribute to the efficiency, effectiveness or timeliness of restoration activities at the installation and is likely to contribute to community acceptance of our activities." That is the reason the Navy thinks this RAB is currently using the TAPP. "We do not have the technical expertise necessary for achieving the objective for which technical assistance is to be obtained" wouldn't apply in our case, since we've got lots of technical competence within the Navy and among the contractors.

Ms. Hunter asked about the timeline. Mr. Magee replied that if the RAB feels it needs TAPP '98, something should be prepared in March so that it can be submitted to the Commanding Officer in April, and then go up the chain of command. It takes some time for that to happen. That's pretty much what happened this past year – Mr. Bernardo approved the RABTAC in March and the contracts were awarded by September. One other criterion is that the RAB has explored other sources of technical support. The TAG doesn't apply because this is a non-NPL site. We have some support from the Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC), and Ms. Marron has renewed this contact. Ms. Marron added that the new TOSC member should be attending the March RAB, and that she was asked to look at the contamination in the bay from the Site 9 VOCs.

Mr. Magee explained the application form. The RAB can nominate a provider and an alternate – they are only looking for two. The provider must have a demonstrated knowledge of hazardous or toxic waste issues and laws, academic training in a relevant discipline, and the ability to translate technical information into terms understandable to a lay person. The TAPP guidelines say they should have previous experience working on hazardous or toxic waste problems, experience in making technical presentations, demonstrated writing skills and previous experience working with affected individuals or community groups. Once the RAB has the results from the consultant, they must be made available to the installation for distribution.

In the event that the Installation Commander does not approve a TAPP project, there is an appeals process. This is also available if the community cannot agree on a project or a provider. Neither seems likely with this RAB, given the history with the pilot TAPP. Ms. Hunter inquired how the RAB could ask a consultant to review documents when we don't know what we will have. Mr. Magee said that Bill Collins and Richard Mach would prepare a list of documents coming out within the next 6 months. This will enable the providers to make a bid. Ms. Hunter asked who determines how much the provider charges and Mr. Collins said that the Navy

would work out the contract. He also informed the RAB that there is a limit of \$25,000 per year, with a maximum of \$100,000 lifetime. Mr. Collins doubts whether the \$25,000 for the pilot TAPP will count towards the limit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Hunter announced that she and Mr. Mach would both be presenting at the National Research Council meeting. She will be testifying on environmental remediation at Naval facilities. Mr. Mach is presenting the risk based total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) cleanup index. Ms. Hunter also announced that there were a number of letters written to the Air District about community residents requesting a cumulative HRA for the whole base. There was a meeting with the APCD yesterday, and the community may support some monitoring stations closer to Coronado and the base than the current one in National City.

Ms. Hunter also asked that the RAB members write "DRAFT" on the letter she handed out, since it has not been approved. She also expressed concern about inviting the consultants that originally worked on the projects to hear the consultants' presentation. She wanted it made clear that they are presenting to the RAB. Ms. Kaupp said it would be nice to have those people there to provide background and clarify issues. Mr. Collins assured her it would not be a problem.

Ms. Marron asked for volunteers to complete a survey she is administering for her Master's thesis in education at SDSU. They are anonymous, and she would be grateful to anyone between the ages of 45 and 65 who would be willing to fill one out.

Potential Agenda Items for March RAB Meeting:

BESAP

Sites 2 and 9 – Mr. Collins

TOSC presentation

RABTAC letter to the RAB

It was agreed to begin the next RAB meeting, on Wednesday, March 18, 1998 at 6:00 p.m., one-half hour early.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next RAB meeting will be Wednesday, March 18th, 1998. Future meetings are Thursday, April 16th, Wednesday May 13th and Thursday, June 18th.

